WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for tracking activities running in parallel in a data processing

2   system, comprising the steps of:

3   maintaining an ordered list of activities running in the system;

4   whenever a new activity begins, inserting the new activity at a top of the list;

5   whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, removing the completed

6   activity from the ordered list; and

7   displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the displaying step displays a code

2   pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activities are configurations of

2   devices attached to the data processing system.

1   4.   A method for configuring devices attached to a data processing system,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   (a) determining if configuration of a device has begun;

4   (b) if configuration of a device has begun, inserting the configuration of the

5   device in a list and displaying a code associated with the device;

6   (c) determining if configuration of a device has completed;

7   (d) if configuration of a device has completed, removing the configuration of

8   the device from the list; and

9   (e) if the configuration of the device removed in step (d) had had its associated

10   code displayed, displaying code associated with a configuration of a device

11   immediately previous.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to

2   step (a) from step (b) if it is determined that configuration of a device has begun.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to

2   step (a) if in step (c) it is determined that configuration of a device has not completed.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to

2   step (a) if in step (e) the configuration of the device removed in step (d) had not had

3   its associated code displayed.

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1   8.   The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of returning to

2   step (c) from step (e).

1   9.   A data processing system comprising:

2   circuitry for maintaining an ordered list of activities running in the system;

3   whenever a new activity begins, circuitry for inserting the new activity at a top

4   of the list;

5   whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, circuitry for removing the

6   completed activity from the ordered list; and

7   circuitry for displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.

1   10.   The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the displaying circuitry displays a

2   code pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.

1   11.   The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the activities are configurations of

2   devices attached to the data processing system.

1   12.   The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the displaying circuitry further

2   comprises:

3   circuitry for determining if an activity that has completed is currently being

4   displayed; and

5   if the activity that has completed is currently being displayed, circuitry for

displaying an activity that had previously been displayed.

1   13.   A computer program product adaptable for storage on a computer readable

2   medium, comprising a computer program operable for performing the following

3   steps:

4   maintaining an ordered list of activities running in a data processing system;

5   whenever a new activity begins, inserting the new activity at a top of the list;

6   whenever an activity in the ordered list completes, removing the completed

7   activity from the ordered list; and

8   displaying the activity that is at the top of the list.

1   14.   The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the displaying step displays a

2   code pertaining to the latest-started activity that has not completed.

1   15.   The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the activities are configurations

2   of devices attached to the data processing system.

1   16.   The program as recited in claim 13, wherein the displaying step further

2   comprises the steps of:

3   determining if an activity that has completed is currently being displayed; and

4   if the activity that has completed is currently being displayed, displaying an

activity that had previously been displayed.